



April 2010

City of Orland, California

Working for a better Community

CITIZEN/BUSINESS FORUM DATE & LOCATION CHANGE

The City Council will hold its first annual Citizen/Business Forum originally scheduled for March 22, 2010 at the multipurpose room at Orland High School has been changed to Monday, April 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm at Memorial Hall. This forum will start off with the Mayor providing a list of accomplishments over the past year and projects that are ongoing for this year.

The Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers will then listen to suggestions/recommendations from the citizens and business owners in the community. These suggestions/recommendations will be considered during a goal setting workshop by the City Council to be scheduled at a later date.

It is anticipated the goal setting workshop will be a precursor to developing the city's annual budget for 2010/2011.

Friends of the Library Book Sale and Fundraiser

The Friends of the Orland Library will hold their annual Spring Book Sale April 19th -24th at the Parish Hall of St. Dominic's Catholic Church. Thousands of books on almost every subject will be available for under a dollar. This event is renowned among north-state book dealers and locals for the astounding number of books available. Tables and shelves of books for sale completely fill the parish hall, but there are so many available that there are also hundreds of books stored in boxes under the tables. In addition to popular fiction and authors like Stephen King, John Grisham, David Baldacci, mysteries and children's books there are also tables dedicated to nonfiction subjects like travel, cookbooks, history, science, art and much more.

Money raised from the sale has funded numerous library activities and projects, including new books, magazines, computers, microfilm for local newspapers and children's programs.

INFORMATION

Orland Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

St. Dominic's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 823 A St., Orland

Monday through Saturday

Hours Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; *Saturday only, 9 a.m. to noon \$2.00 per bag.



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Message from the Community Services Department

WHY DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

Why do my plans need to be reviewed and my project inspected? Building permits provide protection for the consumer and community when building or renovating occurs. Whether you're installing a hot tub, grading a driveway or building a new home, every construction plan is required by law to have a building permit. A building permit ensures that a nonbiased, well-trained, knowledgeable third party has reviewed and inspected your project for compliance with the most recent California building codes. Building codes secure health, fire, safety, employee safety, energy conservation, and handicapped accessibility. Here are just a few ways building permits can help you:

Solves problems before they happen and saves money! Occasionally, a project may run into difficulties. Building permit plan reviews and inspections should catch these problems before they occur. The building permit process is one way to ensure that a project runs smoother and with fewer problems during and after construction. Redoing a project because of errors can cost a lot of time and money. **DOING IT RIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE WILL SAVE YOU MONEY IN THE LONG RUN!**

A non-biased building official can review the work of a contractor. Many owners have never built a home or renovated a property and don't know the ins and outs of construction so they hire a contractor. Because the owner may lack experience and knowledge, he or she is well served to have a non-biased review of the contractor's work. Plan checkers and inspectors are actually working on behalf of the owner. Although an inspector won't be on site daily or act as a General Contractor, he or she can review the various stages of the project when called to inspect. **THE CONSUMER NEEDS AN EXPERT TO REVIEW THE PROJECT.**

Inspectors can serve as a sounding board with vital knowledge of State Building Code standards. If a property owner is doing the work on a project, inspectors can be a great source of assistance and information when working through the construction process. The property owner can ask questions and meet with inspectors either on the phone or in the Planning and Building office. They can also tell you about some of the options allowed in the building code as they relate to your project.

Helps protect property value. Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced.

Insurance coverage. Property insurers may not cover work or damages caused by work done without permits and inspections.

It's the law. County Ordinances require that all construction projects have permits. Construction work done without a permit may be subject to removal or other costly remedies.

Makes selling property easier. When property is sold through a multiple listing association, the owner is required to disclose any improvements or repairs made and if permits and inspections were obtained. Many financial institutions will not finance a purchase without proof of a final inspection. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied, or make costly repairs.

Improves safety. Your permit allows the code official to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction to provide for public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, and your friends or future owners. Mandatory inspections complement the contractor's experience and act as a system of checks and balances resulting in a safer project.



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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department just finished up the 1st Annual City of Orland Golf Tournament and it was a huge success. After months of work and individual personal time spent we can proudly say that it was a fantastic event and that brought in over \$5,000 dollars for the City of Orland. The revenue will be split between the Orland Free Library, Recreation Department and Orland Centennial Committee. The tournament could not have been a success without all the help from the City of Orland and the local businesses. 1st place team was Team Cato. Representing Team Cato was Dave Cato, Don Slater, Brad Van Mierlo, and Larry Kreminoff. Taking 2nd place was Musco Family Olive Company which consisted of Dennis Burreson, Shane Burreson, Heath Burreson, and Steve French. Taking home the 3rd place was Team Romano players included Brett Romano, Vince Simmons, Anthony Rios, and Eric Osborn. Each team was provided breakfast, lunch at the turn, and a tri-tip and chicken dinner prepared by Leon Ponci and John Romano. Winners of the "Super Raffle" were Jolleen Whitsett (\$100 Cash Prize), James Paschall (Gas Bar-B-Que), and Byron Denton (Napa Valley Resort Trip). The Recreation Department would like to give a special thanks to anyone that participated in the Golf tournament in any way.

Current programs running in the Recreation Department are Adult Basketball, Youth T-Ball, Cardio Kickboxing, Adult Volleyball, Open Gym Basketball, and Open Gym Volleyball. Orland Recreation just finished up our Adult CO-ED Volleyball league. The league lasted two months and Team Vargas took home the 1st ever Volleyball Championship. Currently we are half way through the Adult Basketball League and Team Testerman is again in 1st place. T-Ball is moving into the 3rd week of the season and there are 70 kids participating in this year's league. Games are played Saturday mornings at 9:00am and 10:15am at Spence Park generally lasting 1 hour long. The next sport starting up for the Orland youth is Youth Soccer which will start June 12th and last 8 weeks. Fee per child is \$30 dollars and games will be played Saturday mornings at Vinsonhaler Park.

This year the City Pool will open on June 14th and close the first day of Public School is back in session. We will offer three different dates for swim lessons and the pool will be open daily Monday – Saturday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm and Family night will be Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. For questions regarding the pool please call the Orland Recreation Department at (530)865-1630. Deadline to register for Adult Softball teams is May 10th at 5:00pm. CO-ED league will start May 25th and games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights at Lely Park. Men's Fastpitch will start May 26th and be played on Wednesday nights at Lely Park. For more information please contact the Recreation Department.

We now have our Spring / Summer activity guides available for pick up at the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department is offering eight summer camps for all ages and youth soccer league. For adults we offer our CO-ED Softball league, Men's Fastpitch, Adult Basketball, Water Aerobics, Open Gym Volleyball and Basketball. Registration Deadline for all youth activities is one week prior to start of camp or league.

For information regarding camps, city pool, leagues, and other activities going on please contact the Orland Recreation Department at (530) 865-1630 or via email orlandrec@cityoforland.com.



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Grant Funds Available for Homeowners and Future Homeowners

Are you interested in buying your first home and need a little financial assistance? If you have found a single-family detached home, or manufactured home on a single family lot on a permanent foundation within the city limits of Orland, funds are available for up to \$90,000.00 per qualified applicant(s). This loan, a 3% deferred 30 year loan, acts as gap financing to make the first mortgage payments affordable.

Maybe you already own a home and it is time for a few repairs? Funds are available for the rehabilitation of owner occupied homes within the City limits. Some eligible improvements are – roofs and foundations, interior walls and ceilings, kitchen fixtures and equipment, energy conservation measures, handicap ramps or other items needed to assist a disabled household member, etc. Loans up to \$75,000 will be offered at 0% simple interest fixed rate for a term of 15 years. Loan repayments are based on income and may be deferred.

If you are interested in either of the above programs, please call Janet at 865-1610 for more information.

Public Works & Fire Departments

Weed Abatement

Spring is here and the weeds are getting tall. When they dry out in the summer it poses a significant fire hazard. The City will be contacting landowners to clean up lots. Weed abatement problems are handled by the City Code Enforcement. If a landowner does not work with the City to clear the fire hazard, the City will have the work done by a contractor, and then charge the landowner.

For owners of larger lots, note that there has been a change from previous policies. In the past, on large multi-acre lots we allowed the owner to just do fire breaks. Starting this year the whole lot must be mowed, or disced. The reason for this is that just an edge buffer does not provide enough safety during high winds.

Mow your lot early. If you wait until the grass has dried out, you run the risk of starting a fire while mowing. Be a good neighbour. Mow down your weeds. This protects you and your neighbour. If there is a fire, low grass spreads much slower and is easier to control than tall dry grass.

If you are not able to do the work yourself, contact one of the local landscaping services. The City also has the name of contractors who can do the work.

Protect yourself. Create a buffer around your property.

If you have questions or a problem, contact City Hall

City Council Raises Utility Late Fees

The City Council raised the late fee charge for water/sewer utility billing from \$2 to \$5. This late fee will begin with the utility bills that will be sent out on April 1, 2010. The April 1, 2010 utility bills will be due April 30, 2010, and a late fee of \$5.00 will be added to the billing account on May 1, 2010.

Late fees have not been raised since they were established thirty-years ago in 1980. Currently, late fees do not cover the cost of printing, distributing and assisting with customers who are more than 30 days pass due.



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Important Message From The Police Chief

VACATION TIME IS BURGLAR TIME

With summertime approaching we will all be taking a much needed vacation with our families. Unfortunately the burglars know this all too well. In the next couple of ORLAND EXPRESS articles we will explore ways to minimize your potential of becoming a victim.

No home is ever completely burglar proof. A home is burglarized every 13 seconds in the United States. As a homeowner, you need all the help you can get. The purpose of this article is to offer some simple, affordable tips to make your home more secure.

In most cases, an intruder will spend no more than 60 seconds trying to gain access to your home. That time is reduced substantially if you live on a well traveled or busy street.

The most effective way to reduce your potential of becoming a victim is to minimize your home's vulnerabilities. There are a number of steps you can take to minimize your risks and make your home more secure, or at least appear to be more secure.

Most burglars do not plan their break ins. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Burglars pick what appears to be a simple target. If they see a greater risk than they anticipated, they move on to a more desirable target. Therefore, the more effort you take to keep your home from seeming to be a simple target, the safer you will be.

Some simple steps can be taken to minimize your risk of returning from vacation to discover you have been victimized.

Tip #1 Put your mail and newspaper on hold. Nothing tells a burglar "Nobody is home" more than seeing a week's worth of accumulated newspapers or mail.

Tip #2 Put your lights and TV on a timer. Timers come in a variety from a programmable, computerized home to a simple plug in that you plug a lamp and TV into. Have two or three rooms equipped so the lights go on and off at various times. Also leave the light over the stove on all the time, as the kitchen is one room that tends to have lights on the most. A deserted house "feels" empty. People make noise, noise means vibrations. This broken pattern of conversation (as in the dialogue of a television show) is more consistent with someone being home. Set the TV timer to go off just a few minutes before the lights in that particular room.

Tip #3 Answering machines should say "we can't get to the phone right now." Even when you are in town, your phone message should never say that you are not home.

Tip #4 Park your car in the driveway. This is a debated tactic. Some recommend it to make it look like someone is home. While others believe that a car that doesn't move is a tip off. Still others recommend offering your neighbor a place to park. You might want to do a combination.

Tip #5 Padlock all gates. Make your backyard inaccessible. Padlocking your gates when you are at home is inconvenient, but the advantages of doing it while you are on vacation are great. It not only makes getting into the backyard more difficult (not impossible), it seriously hinders a suspect getting out while carrying items like stereos and computers. This difficulty serves as a strong deterrent.

In next month's Orland Express we will provide additional tips to make your home less attractive as a target for burglars. The bottom line is that the first line of defense for your home security has to be you. You have to take a proactive stance. For more information you can stop by the Police Department office and pick up a copy of the brochure "Vacation Home Security."



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Message from the Orland City Clerk

City Council Meetings

The public is encouraged to attend our City Council meetings which are held on the first and third Monday of each month. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Carnegie Center, 912 Third Street.

A copy of the City Council agenda is always available Thursday afternoon prior to the scheduled City Council meeting. You may pick up a copy at City Hall or it's available online at www.cityoforland.com. The agenda is also posted on the message board in front of City Hall.

Placement of Political Signs

With elections around the corner, it is important candidates remember there is a City Political Sign policy to follow before placing temporary outdoor campaign signs. Your cooperation in adhering to the following guidelines is very much appreciated:

Signs are permitted but should not exceed an aggregate of 12 sq. ft., located by an individual on his or her own residence or place of business or on some part of the property; provided, that such signs are displayed not more than 30 days before, or more than 10 days after the conclusion of the political campaign or event to which they relate.

The City has previously ruled that signs are not to be placed in or about the public right of way and may not be placed on utility poles. Signs displayed prior to 30 days before the election and more than 10 days after the election will be confiscated by the City and a charge for such service will be assessed against the candidate.

Message from the Fire Department

The 99th Annual Fireman's Ball was another great success. We would like to take the time in this Newsletter to thank the citizens of Orland and surrounding area for their support. The fundraising drive consisted of the Firemen going door to door in both the City, and the surrounding Rural area. While we may miss a few, we try to knock on every door of every house from the Tehama County line on the North, to Artois on the South. That is a lot of houses. While it's an enormous amount of work, it's also worthwhile and rewarding to meet the citizens of the community face to face. It is with the generous financial support of this community that helps us survive.

This year's winners in the Ticket Drive was the South (Green) Team. Losing team Captain Chris Drouillard was paraded through downtown on the back of a decorated red donkey provided by Bruce Gilmore.

Was it our 98th Ball, or 99th? It was actually our 99th. After the tickets were printed, we realized that we have been off by one year. If one glances at what year it is it looked like it was 98. It was not until former Chief and part time historian Jack Bucke pointed out that one needs to count the actual number of Balls, not subtract the years. We are back on track, and looking forward to having our 100th Fireman's Ball next year. It is going to be a big one.

Orland Express - The Orland Express is published monthly by Paul H. Poczobut Jr., 815 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963.

ORLAND TOWN OFFICIALS

Mayor: Wade Elliott

Vice Mayor: James E. Paschall

Council Members: Paul Barr, Bruce Roundy, Reggie Olney

City Clerk: Angela Crook

City Treasurer: Pamela Otterson

City Manager: Paul H. Poczobut Jr.